

# Menace of the weedkiller

A FARM WORKER told his union conference yesterday that he became violently ill after rolling ground sprayed with a toxic weed killer.

He said he woke up in the middle of the night and after three hours of illness he collapsed and his wife called the doctor.

Mr Fred Kendall, 67, a part-time worker on a shrub nursery at Easingwold, Yorkshire, said he and another man were off work for a fortnight.

He told the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers' conference at Weymouth, that the weed killer was Pre-glone—a trade name for a mixture of paraquat and diquat.

'Less than half a teaspoonful in the system will finish you. There is no antidote and several deaths



have occurred,' he said. Mr Henry Dellar, of Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire, said safety warnings on containers were being ignored.

'There is one spray used on vegetables which carries the warning that the crop should not be harvested for six weeks after spraying.

'I know of brussels sprouts being picked three weeks afterwards,' he said.

The conference unanimously decided to press the Government for stricter control, public warning notices in areas where dangerous substances have been used, and an investigation into the effect of toxic chemicals on human and plant life.

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